

What is the timeline for the sub-grant application process?

The timeline is outlined in the grant guidelines established for the sub-grant program. These guidelines were part of the grant application packet sent out to all 9-1-1 directors and county coordinators and are posted at www.michigan.gov/911gisgrant. Applicants will have from November 1, 2011 until January 3, 2012 to complete the application documents to describe their proposed grant project for the sub-grant program. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the ENHANCE 9-1-1 Grant project will review all applications between January 3, 2012 and February 1, 2012 and make grants awards notices by February 1, 2012.

What is the timeline for sub-grant project completions?

Applicants who are awarded funding will have from February 1, 2012 until June 30, 2012 to complete their projects. The TAC established a schedule for the application process and the overall project work that would provide enough time to complete everything by the ENHANCE 9-1-1 project deadline of September 30, 2012.

Why do the sub-grants need to be completed by June 30, 2012 if the completion date of the ENHANCE 911 grant that the State of Michigan received is September 30, 2012?

The sub-grant projects will need to be completed by June 30, 2012 because the Center for Shared Solutions and Technology Partnerships (CSSTP) will need the remaining 3 months to review data, upload data into the repository, stitch together the datasets across county boundaries to complete an integrated seamless dataset and then perform all of the initial quality control routines for each participant's datasets. The tight timeline is necessary to ensure all work related to the overall ENHANCE 911 grant project is complete by the federally mandated deadline of September 30, 2012.

Is it a requirement that a participant in the project provide other layers beyond road centerlines to the GIS repository such as Emergency Service Zone boundaries, address points or MSAG table?

No. The ENHANCE 9-1-1 grant received by the State of Michigan requires only that complete seamless statewide road centerline and PSAP boundary layers are implemented within the statewide GIS repository by the end of the overall project. However, the GIS repository has been developed to allow for the scalability for additional layers.

These additional layers can deliver immediate additional value for PSAPs. For example, as participants provide these updated datasets to the repository over time, the additional quality control checks for validation between road centerlines, MSAG tables, Emergency Service Zones (ESZ), and address points will increase the accuracy of the dataset over time and maintain synchronization between the datasets long-term, as recommended by NENA technical document 71-501. Another example is jurisdictions that provide mutual aid to each other, if they are all participating in the project, will be able to extract and share data with their neighboring jurisdictions to improve mutual aid during an emergency.

In addition, address points play an important role in locating 9-1-1 callers today and will also provide more accuracy for routing and validation in Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1).

Is the MSAG database confidential and proprietary of a third party?

No. The MSAG may be managed by a third party provider, but the PSAP owns the MSAG information for its jurisdiction. The information within the MSAG only contains street names and address ranges and the correct Emergency Service Number (ESN) indicating the first responders that serve specific address ranges.

Why does the grant application form list the ALI database in the list of GIS data sources?

Although it is not part of the statewide GIS repository, a PSAP can request a copy of the ALI database from the telephone company if they need additional source information to help validate address information on the road centerlines. There may be a fee required by the telephone company to provide an extract of the ALI database.

How can I participate and request a grant if my PSAP or County does not have GIS resources to help me prepare an application or to complete the grant project?

Some PSAPs or counties may look to neighboring county GIS resources to provide some knowledge on grant project options. Applicants can also contact GIS associations within the State, MiCAMP or IMAGIN, to get information on what GIS resources are available to assist in developing grants and conducting the grant-funded project.

What are my options if I do not have GIS resources and need to hire a vendor, but my county's process to release an RFP is too lengthy to meet the grant project schedule?

You should discuss with your procurement office or board of commissioners to determine what options are available for procuring services during the timeline of this grant process. The purchasing rules will vary by jurisdiction.

What is the data assessment used for?

The data assessment will help the TAC to review grant applications and project descriptions by providing a basic overview of some of the typical validation checks that can be performed to determine what issues exist within the road centerlines that will need to be remediated during the grant project.

If an applicant uploads their datasets prior to December 1, 2011 as described in the grant guidelines, the applicant will also receive their assessment results which could help provide additional information to include in their grant application. It may take up to two weeks to receive data assessment results, so the sooner that the data is uploaded prior to December 1, 2011, the sooner an applicant will receive results to help provide potential additional information for a grant application.

Where do I upload my data for assessment?

There is a link on the www.michigan.gov/911gisgrant web site that will allow you to create a secure account to upload the datasets and signed memorandum of agreement (MOA).

Is there information as to what is being reviewed during the data assessment?

A blank sample data assessment scorecard will be available to download from the www.michigan.gov/911gisgrant web site.

What format do the final deliverables need to be in to upload to the GIS repository?

The minimum requirement will be shapefiles, because most GIS software and CAD systems can either import or export shapefiles. ESRI personal and file geodatabases will be acceptable, as well.

Why are the questions on the grant application form that are asking about the availability of tax parcels and ALI database? Are these datasets going to be required to be provided into the repository as well?

No. The reason for asking what data sources are available on the grant application form is so the review committee has an understanding of some of the datasets that exist that might be good source information to help validate road names and address ranges on the road centerlines during your sub-grant project.

If a county receives a sub-grant are they bound to participate?

Yes. As described in the letter of interest and the grant guideline documents, if you are awarded a sub-grant, you must participate in the overall ENHANCE 9-1-1 grant project.

Can I still participate in the 9-1-1 GIS grant project if I do not apply for a sub-grant?

Yes.

How do I participate in the 9-1-1 GIS grant project if I am not applying for a sub-grant?

You can send an email to Harriet Miller-Brown to indicate your intent to participate in the project. Then you would still need to upload your data for assessment to assure that it will meet the requirements of the GIS repository. Your signed MOA will need to be uploaded, along with your data for the assessment, to protect your data. If you are not applying for a sub-grant, then your data and MOA do not need to be submitted by the December 1, 2011 deadline. However it would be better to have the data assessment completed during the sub-grant application period to identify potential issues where sub-grant funds could be applied for to supplement the work.

Does a county have to give up data developed from the grant funds?

Yes. Data developed from the grant funds will need to be provided to the GIS repository; however, the data is still owned by the county. The county can use the developed data for its own GIS operations and push updates up to the GIS repository for 9-1-1 purposes.

What happens to any remaining sub-grant funds after the grants are awarded?

Based on the initial survey results and the eligible items for funding, it is anticipated that there will not be any funds remaining in the sub-grant program after this grant application award process is completed.

What are the most important factors that will be considered in the review of my application?

The most important information is the description of your project, known issues with your data and your description of how you plan to remediate those issues. The initial data assessment is an automated process that will provide a basic check, but it is your local knowledge of your data issues and your description of those issues in the grant application that will help the review committee the most in determining whether to make an award.

Do I need to submit data in the exact same geodatabase model format of the repository?

No. You can keep your local database designs as long as it contains the required fields that are listed in the GIS standards for the repository. The required fields can be named differently as long as they contain the required information in the necessary standards. When a participating jurisdiction uploads their GIS data, they will set a profile for data upload that specifies which fields in the local database match the required fields in the GIS repository.

How often do I need to provide updates to the repository once my data is initially loaded?

There is not a specific interval required at this point. Each jurisdiction will be a little bit different because of the varying frequency of data changes that occur. A current guideline would be to provide data when substantial changes have occurred to the datasets. In the future NG9-1-1 environments, data changes will need to be pushed up to the repository more regularly to assure that any new GIS information is available for routing and validation.

What are the options for maintaining data?

A local jurisdiction can continue to maintain their data as they are today if they have existing GIS addressing maintenance workflows and tools. In this scenario, they would just upload any changes to the repository, as needed. For a jurisdiction that might not have existing tools or workflows, the GIS repository will have secure web tools where a jurisdiction can log into their data and make any necessary edits to the datasets that they have provided to the system.

For the sub-grant program, can I create address points and ESZ boundaries, if they are used to improve the centerlines?

You can describe in your sub-grant application any situations where the most efficient way to update information in specific areas of your road centerlines would be to create some address points or ESZ boundaries. The determination on funding for this additional data creation will be made on the prioritization of the specific road centerline errors that would be fixed, as well as how effective the

creation of the additional data would be for those specific errors. In other words, funding would not be provided to develop any address points, across an entire county, or even specific areas of a county, if there are no specific issues with the road centerlines that those address points would resolve.

Can I get reimbursed through the sub-grant program for any work done on my road centerlines prior to the sub-grant project awards?

No.

What is the database 'shell' or 'model' that was referred to on the webinar?

The geodatabase 'shell' or 'model' is a database template that GIS users can start with if they wanted to incorporate the same database model as the repository within their local addressing datasets. It has all field names of the 9-1-1 GIS repository standards already filled out and ready for data to be incorporated into, saving someone the time of developing a database by typing in all of the fields and field sizes, etc.

There is no requirement for the local jurisdiction to adopt this exact data model with these exact field names. The local jurisdiction will need to have the appropriate required fields in within their local data, but the local data can be kept in a current local database model that might already be needed for CAD and other systems. In this case, when the data would be uploaded to the state 9-1-1 GIS repository, the local jurisdiction would be able to let the system know which field names that they are using for 'road name', 'road type', etc so they can be loaded into the correlating field in the 9-1-1 GIS repository.

There were some requests from the GIS community to make a database 'model' template available for those that did want to use it at their local jurisdiction.

Understanding that there is not a cost now to participate in the program if we get funds from the sub-grant will any participating entity be required to continue participation in the event that a cost is implemented in the future?

There is a termination clause in the Memorandum of Agreement, where a participant can decide to no longer participate in the program.

I anticipate a lot of meetings with members of the local municipalities. Is the time spent on meetings, training and data acquisition related to the project eligible for reimbursement?

Existing staff direct wages that are directly attributed to the grant proposal, (not including overtime or benefits), is an eligible use of funds.

Can grant funds be used for imagery acquisition - i.e. participation in the state imagery program with Bing Imagery?

The eligibility of imagery will be reviewed by the State 9-1-1 Committee during their next meeting on December 13, 2011.

At what point will edge-matching between county centerlines / PSAPs be handled?

CSSTP will be leading the development and edgematching of the PSAP boundaries. CSSTP will also perform edgematching on the centerlines that are provided from the sub-grant program. This edgematching on centerlines will be performed between June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012.

What exactly needs to be submitted for the December 1 GIS data submission? Does it have to include the centerlines in the new geodatabase model, or is it what the communities currently have?

The current GIS road centerlines and a copy of the MSAG table from the local jurisdiction need to be provided, at minimum. These datasets can be provided in their current format at the local jurisdiction. If address points and Emergency Service Zones exist at the local jurisdiction, these datasets can be provided as well but are not required. If they are provided, additional assessment results from data checks between these datasets and the centerlines will be provided back to the local jurisdiction.

Who do we contact with questions regarding the MOA?

Please contact Laura Blastic or Harriet Miller Brown. Their contact information is listed on the guidelines and rules document of the sub-grant program.

Is it an eligible use to apply for sub-grant funds to help clean up the MSAG file?

The focus of the sub-grant funds are to help improve the accuracy of the overall GIS road centerlines in accordance with the overall ENHANCE 911 Act grant for the development of a road centerline layers with the GIS repository. Therefore sub-grant funds specifically for just cleaning up the MSAG file would not be an eligible expense.

The data assessment that is being conducted will validate the road centerlines against the MSAG and provide the participant back a fallout report that can be reviewed to assist in pinpointing any issues that need to be updated in the GIS road centerlines. This process of updating those issues in the road centerlines will undoubtedly lead to the need to adjust some of the information in the MSAG table in the process. Therefore any updates to the MSAG made in conjunction with increasing the accuracy of the road names and address ranges in the centerline would be eligible.

The results of the validation between the road centerlines and MSAG were not included in the overall data assessment scoring matrix because a jurisdiction's centerlines could draw a lower score because of issues that might only exist within the MSAG and the information in the centerlines might be correct. Using the fallout report provided, the participant can research in which of the data sources that the potential errors might exist.

Can we use these funds to purchase the 'off the shelf' road centerline data from commercial data vendors?

Off the shelf, commercial data products are not an eligible use of funds for this sub-grant project. For 9-1-1, it has always been the industry's position, including the NENA technical data committees, that GIS

addressing data should be developed and maintained by the local jurisdiction. Commercial datasets also do not have the long-term accuracy required for 9-1-1, in terms of being able to add new addressing within the datasets, within the timing needed for 9-1-1. It is the local jurisdiction that has the best knowledge of the geography and also typically has the addressing ordinances and workflows in place to know when new streets are built and new addresses are assigned to be able to maintain these datasets most effectively. This becomes even more paramount for routing and validation in NG9-1-1.

Other potential issues also need to be considered when looking at commercial datasets as a 9-1-1 addressing base map instead of locally developed and maintained data. Commercial datasets do not typically include some of the required standard information of 9-1-1 such as Emergency Service Number, MSAG community, etc. There is usually an annual maintenance fee required for annual, semi-annual or quarterly updates of the data. Because updates are only on a periodical basis, it makes quality control more difficult and requested changes might only be returned during the next update cycle. Updates for commercial datasets are typically reliant on updates acquired by the commercial data vendor from local jurisdictions. Therefore most addressing changes that occur within a jurisdiction would need to be supplied to the commercial vendor by the local jurisdiction anyway.

Commercial datasets definitely provide valuable data infrastructure for specific uses within the GIS industry but for 9-1-1 with the need to pinpoint specific addresses for emergency response and assure that the datasets have the most current addresses and can be modified as soon as an error might be detected, 9-1-1 addressing data is best to be a product of the local jurisdiction.